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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
TO:		10/4/88
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
7E-12	NGS	
REMARKS:		
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FROM:		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
2D-27	NGS	

00/IMS 0450-88

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional) Letter to DEA Regarding				STAT	
FROM: IMS/ 2D27 HQS		EXTENSION		NO. 1MS 450 88 DATE 4 October 1988	
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)		DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	
		RECEIVED		FORWARDED	
1. C/IMS/ 2D27 HQS		4 Oct 88		4 Oct 88	
2. C/IMS/ 1D4109 HQS		4 Oct 88			
3. C/IMS 1D4109 HQS		10/4		10/4	
4. C/PCS 2E03 HQS		10 5 OCT 1988		5 Oct	
5. ADDO 7E26 HQS		6 Oct			
6. DDO 7E26 HQS				7	
7. Executive Registry 7E12 HQS		07 OCT 1988			
8. ADDCI 7D60 HQS		15 Oct 88			
9. DCI 7D60 HQS					
11.					
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* Rec'd 10/10/88
 — Pls sign in DCI
 Retyped for ADDCI signature

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DCI EXEC REG

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SECRET
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

18 OCT 1988

Mr. John C. Lawn
Administrator
Drug Enforcement Administration
Washington, D.C. 20537

Dear Mr. Lawn:

In reference to your request dated 9 September 1988 for information concerning [redacted] the following is in addition to that information already known to your Administration and is provided for the exclusive use of DEA. This Agency will directly respond to the staff of Congressman Hughes' House Judiciary Subcommittee concerning their request for information on the Agency's contacts with these two individuals. [redacted]

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Sincerely,

/s/ Robert M. Gates

Robert M. Gates
Acting Director of Central Intelligence

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Drug Enforcement Administration

Washington, D.C. 20537

SEP 9 1988

Honorable William H. Webster
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Judge Webster:

During the course of the next several weeks, there will be hearings conducted by Congressman Hughes of New Jersey. These hearings are expected to focus on a number of issues which have not yet been fully defined. We do anticipate, however, that one area of inquiry will be the utilization of persons by law enforcement and/or the intelligence community who are significant drug traffickers or involved in other activities, such as the movement of weapons.

I expect also that these hearings will focus on the issue of the interrelationship between drug law enforcement and national security concerns and whether or not the balance between the two is appropriate. The Noriega case, the Nicaraguan case involving the now deceased defendant/informant Barry Seal, and the general area of Contra resupply are a few of the areas of inquiry.

While I believe some of the motivation for these hearings is political, nonetheless, I expect them to be difficult and we must be as prepared as possible due to the complex nature of these cases and issues. Over the course of the past months, we have made informal inquiries of the Central Intelligence Agency as to any relationship that the agency may have had with certain of these individuals.

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I believe that it is in the best interests of both organizations that we ascertain what relationships did exist with DEA/CIA and what impact that may or may not have on us at these hearings. It is, therefore, requested that you make a formal check of your records at CIA pertaining to the following individuals:

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It is requested that you respond as soon as possible, as the hearings are due to commence as early as the week of September 12. Jack Short, Acting Chief of the Cannabis Investigations Section, is DEA's action officer and can be reached at 633-5628.

Sincerely,



John C. Lawn
Administrator

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Drug Enforcement Administration

General Counsel

88-03674

Washington, D.C. 20537

SEP 9 1988

Honorable William H. Webster
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Judge Webster:

In recent hearings the Administration was seriously criticized for not sufficiently coordinating our efforts and intelligence in the situation involving Panama's General Noriega. Congressman Hughes is conducting further hearings on this issue and the balance between law enforcement and national security interests. During hearings on July 12, 1988, it was necessary for me to testify that the CIA had not provided me any substantial intelligence on General Noriega's drug trafficking activities.

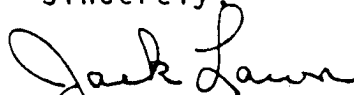
A key point in the hearing was the assertion that former National Security Adviser John Poindexter had visited General Noriega in 1985 and had told him to "clean up his act." This message was reportedly delivered based on a CIA summary of Noriega's drug related activities. I believe that it is in the interests of both agencies that I be provided the opportunity to review the CIA holdings on any drug related intelligence on General Noriega.

Further, a careful review must be made to determine if Mr. Poindexter did in fact have a report and did he actually discuss drug activity with the General as alleged. I am concerned of the potential impact of these records, if they exist, on the future trial of Noriega in the U.S.

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Our Chief Counsel, Dennis Hoffman, is DEA's action officer and can be reached at 633-1276.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John C. Lawn".

John C. Lawn
Administrator

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OGC/SAD (14 October 1988)

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